

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 30 are amended. Claims 1, 3-6, 14-18, 30, and 32-37 are pending in the application.

Claims 1, 3-6, 14-18, 30 and 32-37 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over various cited combinations of Mankell (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0127399), Combes (U.S. Patent No. 5725987), Tutin (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0034145), Buck (U.S. Patent No. 6039821) and Fukushima (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0197879). A proper obviousness rejection requires, *inter alia*, that the references teach or suggest all the claim limitations. Claims 1, 3-6, 14-18, 30 and 32-37 are allowable over Mankell, Combes, Fukushima, Tutin and Buck for at least the reason that the references, individually or as combined, fail to disclose or suggest each and every limitation in any of those claims.

As amended, independent claim 1 recites exposing a substrate comprising glass fiber to precursor in a supercritical fluid comprising one or more members of the group consisting of ammonia, freons, noble gases, nitrogen, hydrocarbons and aromatic compounds. As amended, independent claim 30 recited exposing an oxygen-containing surface to precursor molecules in a supercritical or non-supercritical fluid comprising one or more members of the group consisting of ammonia, hydrocarbons and aromatic compounds. The amendments to claims 1 and 30 are supported by the specification at, for example, paragraphs 41 and 60. Not one of the cited references, or any combination thereof discloses or suggests the claim 1 recited exposing glass fiber to precursor or the claim 30 recited exposing oxygen-containing surface to precursor molecules in the

presence of the recited fluids. Accordingly, independent claims 1 and 30 are not rendered obvious by the various cited combinations of Mankell, Combes, Fukushima, Buck and Tutin and are allowable over these references.

The dependent claims pending in the application are allowable over the art of record for at least the reason that they depend from corresponding allowable base claims 1 and 30.

For the reasons discussed above, pending claims 1, 3-6, 14-18, 30, and 32-37 are allowable. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests formal allowance of such pending claims in the Examiner's next action.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: February 9, 2009

By: Jennifer J. Taylor
Jennifer J. Taylor, Ph.D.
Reg. No. 48,711